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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"The question put by the hon. Member is: Has the committee sent its report and what is the action that the Government have taken on its recommendations?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—"I have submitted that the report of the committee is being examined by the Government. Without examining the report, it is not possible to implement the recommendations."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—"In fact, there is a change in the policy of the Government in regard to the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. May I know the reason for it?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—"The hon. Member thinks so because he is prejudiced against the Government."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—"Sir, clause (*b*) of the question refers to the removal of defects and the improvement of the standard of administration of criminal justice. My supplementary question as to whether the Government are aware that there are inordinate delays in the disposal of criminal cases by Judicial Magistrates and how the Government are going to avoid these delays is perfectly in order as a supplementary question within the purview of clause (*b*)."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—"The Government are not aware of such a state of things. If individual cases are brought to the notice of Government, they will try to remove the delays."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"Inasmuch as the administration of criminal justice in non-separation districts has been characterised as disgraceful by the committee, may I know why the Government are hesitating to extend the separation scheme?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—"I am sorry the hon. Member has not followed attentively the reply given by me. The Government are not hesitating. They are only considering the defects that have to be rectified before extending the scheme to other districts. The Government want to extend the scheme to other districts and in answer to clause (*a*) I have said that there has been no change in the policy."

Alleged irregularities in the Minor Panchayat Board Elections.

* 796 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any reports have been received by the Government and the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards in relation to fraud in the counting of votes in the Minor Panchayat Elections committed by Election Officers and the nature of the irregularities committed; and

(*b*) if so, in relation to how many elections and what steps have been taken on such reports?

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THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) & (b) Allegations of partiality and fraud on the part of Election Officers in counting of votes among other things have been received from time to time. But in the absence of findings after due inquiry by Election Commissioners, the only authorities constituted to enquire into such allegations on petitions filed by the aggrieved parties, Government are unable to accept such allegations at their face value."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We can take up the next question also, because it also relates to the same subject."

Allegations against officers in charge of Minor Panchayat Elections.

* 797 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of election cases alleging partiality on the part of the election officer in the matter of counting votes in the recent elections to the minor panchayats?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Representations have been received upto 15th May 1953 in 32 cases, alleging partiality on the part of election officers in the counting of votes. Election Commissioners are the duly constituted authorities to enquire into such allegations. In the absence of their findings, Government are unable to accept such allegations at their face value."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have already allowed a half-hour debate on this subject."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that these election officers have not been beyond suspicion, will the Government consider the advisability of appointing tellers on both sides so long as the system of open voting continues? " 9-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Similar allegations can be made against tellers also."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question hour is over. Answers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings."

Water scarcity in villages under Appapuram Project.

* 798 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petitions have been received by the Government from the ayacutdars of Kakumanu and Kondapatur, etc., villages under Appapuram Project in Bapatla taluk regarding water scarcity; and

(b) if so, the action taken on them?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) A representation was received on behalf of the ayacutdars of the villages.

" (b) The request was complied with to the extent possible."